

CLAIMSWhat is claimed is:

1. A method for estimating end-to-end quality of service parameters for a Internet Protocol ("IP") communications network, wherein the end-to-end quality of service parameters are selected from end-to-end packet loss, end-to-end packet delay and end-to-end packet delay jitter, and wherein the IP communications network includes
5 routers connected by links and gateways between a Public Switched Telephone Network ("PSTN") and the routers, the method using estimates of offered traffic for each service from each source carried to each gateway of the IP communications network, comprising the steps of:

determining a possible number N of sources;
10 estimating, from the offered traffic to each gateway, blocked traffic and carried traffic from each gateway;
estimating carried traffic for each network link using a network routing algorithm;
calculating a plurality of loss probabilities by varying the number N for each calculation;
15 estimating an end-to-end packet loss probability by summing the plurality of loss probabilities from the calculating step.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of loss probabilities is calculated over all possible values of N, and wherein the step of estimating an end-to-end

packet loss probability sums the plurality of loss probabilities over all possible values of N.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of estimating the single link packet delay distribution after the step of estimating the carried traffic for each network link.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of estimating the end-to-end packet delay distribution.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of estimating the end-to-end packet delay jitter.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the offered traffic for each service has deterministic and non-deterministic attributes for packet length and inter-arrival distribution.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein a Kaufman algorithm is used in the step of estimating blocked traffic and carried traffic.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of estimating end-to-end packet loss probability includes estimating a single link packet loss probability for each link.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the estimates of offered traffic are in Erlangs.

10. A method for estimating end-to-end quality of service parameters for a Internet Protocol ("IP") communications network, wherein the end-to-end quality of service parameters are selected from end-to-end packet loss, end-to-end packet delay and end-to-end packet delay jitter, and wherein the IP communications network includes routers connected by links and gateways between a Public Switched Telephone Network ("PSTN") and the interconnected routers, the method using estimates of offered traffic having deterministic and non-deterministic attributes for packet length and inter-arrival distribution for each service from each of a varying number of sources carried to each gateway of the IP communications network, comprising the steps of:

10 determining a possibly number N of sources;

estimating, from the offered traffic to each gateway, a blocked traffic and a carried traffic from each gateway;

estimating carried traffic for each network link using a network routing algorithm;

estimating a single link packet loss probability for each link;

15 calculating a plurality of loss probabilities by varying the number N for each calculation;

estimating an end-to-end packet loss probability by summing the plurality of loss probabilities;

estimating the single link packet delay distribution;

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20 estimating the end-to-end packet delay distribution; and
 estimating the end-to-end packet delay jitter.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the plurality of loss probabilities is calculated over all possible values of N, and wherein the step of estimating an end-to-end packet loss probability sums the plurality of loss probabilities over all possible values of N.

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12. A method for estimating end-to-end quality of service parameters for a Internet Protocol ("IP") communications network, wherein the end-to-end quality of service parameters are selected from end-to-end packet loss, end-to-end packet delay and end-to-end packet delay jitter, and wherein the IP communications network includes
5 routers connected by links and gateways between a Public Switched Telephone Network ("PSTN") and the routers, the method, using estimates of offered traffic for each service from each source carried to each gateway of the IP communications network, comprising the steps of:

 determining a possible number N of sources;
10 estimating, from the offered traffic to each gateway, a blocked traffic and a carried traffic from each gateway;
 estimating carried traffic for each network link using a network routing algorithm;
 calculating at least one quality of service parameter for each network link by
varying the number N for each calculation; and

- 15 estimating at least one end-to-end quality of service parameter by summing the quality of service characteristics for the network links.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the quality of service characteristic for the network link is selected from the group consisting of single link packet loss probability and single link packet delay distribution.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the end-to-end quality of service characteristic is selected from the group consisting of end-to-end packet loss probability, end-to-end packet delay distribution, and end-to-end packet delay jitter.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the quality of service characteristic for the network link is selected from the group consisting of single link packet loss probability and single link packet delay distribution.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the estimates of offered traffic are in Erlangs.

17. A system for estimating end-to-end quality of service parameters for a Internet Protocol ("IP") communications network, wherein the end-to-end quality of service parameters are selected from end-to-end packet loss, end-to-end packet delay and end-to-end packet delay jitter, and wherein the IP communications network includes

5 routers connected by links and gateways between a Public Switched Telephone Network ("PSTN") and the routers, the system, using estimates in Erlang, of offered traffic for each service from each source carried to each gateway of the Internet Protocol communications network, comprising:

- a database comprising parameters for each gateway, the parameters identifying
- 10 type of service and characteristics of each service;
- a memory comprising an end-to-end quality of service program; and
- a processor utilizing the end-to-end quality of service program to
 - determine a possible number N of sources;
 - estimate, from the offered traffic to each gateway, a blocked traffic and a
 - 15 carried traffic from each gateway;
 - estimate carried traffic for each network link using a network routing algorithm;
 - calculate a plurality of loss probabilities by varying the number N for each calculation; and
 - 20 estimate an end-to-end packet loss probability by summing the plurality of loss probabilities.

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